



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



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January-February 2003

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VASILOPITA AND ST. BASIL'S ACADEMY

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CHARTER GRANTED BY ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

by Angie Leventis,
Cathedral Philoptochos President

The vasilopita celebration is one of the most beautiful traditions of the Greek Orthodox Church. It is also an annual family observance which takes place the 8th day of Christmas, January 1.

This age old tradition commenced in the fourth century when Saint Basil the Great, who was a bishop, wanted to distribute money to the poor in his Diocese. He commissioned some women to bake sweetened bread whereby he placed gold coins in the sweet bread. The poor families in cutting of the bread were pleasantly surprised to find the gold coins.

This event which happened in the late fourth century still exists today in our Orthodox homes and even in our own Parish in the tradition of a vasilopita celebration. The women of our Parish Philoptochos take time from their busy schedules to gather and work in harmony to make the vasilopites for this joyous observance. This year our vasilopita celebration takes places on Sunday, January 12, 2003.

The donations and moneys raised from the sale of these vasilopites are sent to St. Basil Academy to help support the operating costs of the Academy. St. Basil Academy is located in Garrison, New York and is the sole property of Philoptohos.

Annually, National Philoptochos and their chapters nationwide sponsor vasilopita celebrations for this commitment - \$300,000 per year is granted to help support the academy.

For the last 50 years St. Basil has provided "a home away from home" for the Church's less fortunate children. In most cases the children St. Basil Academy serves come from families who have fallen on bad times due to death, sickness or a dysfunctional family situation. The focus of St. Basil is on the spiritual, physical, educational, emotional and social needs of each child. Full-time personnel are employed to meet the needs of these children.

St. Basil Academy is also the permanent home for the Patriarch Athenagoras Retreat & Conference Center. The Retreat Center facilities are used by Parish Priests, Philoptochos Ladies, YAL and GOYA. The center provides lodging, food and lecturers when requested. The webpage is www.stbasil.goarch.org/.

It is a known fact that centuries ago, the vasilopita tradition was intended for the hungry and the destitute and yet after all these centuries, it is amazing and unbelievable that the vasilopita celebration today is very much alive and follows the same path that Saint Basil the Great undertook so many years ago.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in America and Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, announced that the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Patriarchate has concluded its work and granted a new Charter to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

At the same time and in accordance with the new Charter, the Synod of the Patriarchate, affirming the unity and oneness of the Archdiocese, elevated the Dioceses to Metropolises of the Archdiocese and elected all of the Hierarchs of the Dioceses as Metropolitans of their respective Metropolises. Our Diocese of San Francisco is now known as the Holy Metropolis of San Francisco, and our Bishop, who held the title, Metropolitan of the Dardanelles and Presiding Hierarch of San Francisco, is now Metropolitan Anthony of San Francisco. The Annunciation Cathedral is now known as the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Annunciation.

According to the new Charter, the additional Metropolises of the Holy Archdiocese of America are Chicago, Pittsburgh, Boston, Denver, Atlanta, Detroit and New Jersey.

The text of the New Charter will be read at our Metropolitan Clergy-Laity Assembly, which will be assembled at the Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center February 6-8.

NEW YEAR'S AT THE CATHEDRAL: A CIRQUE D'ELEGANCE

The 200 plus parishioners and friends of the Cathedral who attended the New Year's Eve gala welcomed the New Year in grand style, with a four-course meal and dancing to the music of *Fotia*. Our thanks go to **Patty Rally** and her very capable committee, who transformed an ordinary gymnasium/community center into an extraordinary setting for a gala celebration. A wonderful time was had by all.

ANNUNCIATION PHILOPTOCHOS ANGEL TREE PROJECT by Nan Cusulos

The Annunciation Philoptochos Angel Tree Project was once again a huge success. Once again, we sponsored a place called City Crossroads Ministry. It is a non-profit public benefit corporation, with a ministry to multi-ethnic youth and low-income families who live in the area. It is located in the inner city of San Francisco, South of Market, on 6th Street, where overcrowded housing, alcoholism, drug abuse, homelessness, gangs and crimes are an everyday problem.

Through various programs, City Crossroads seeks to meet the real physical, social and spiritual needs of the City's neglected children. Their ages run from 3 to 18 years of age. It is a haven for them to have a place to go after school, away from the dangerous streets. There, they have recreational activities, a quiet area to do their home work, Bible studies, fellowship with one another and a warm meal. On any afternoon of the week, City Crossroads is filled with children looking for love. It is run by a young pastor and his wife, who have their own church, but find time to open their hearts and give of themselves to this worthwhile ministry.

This is our fifth year into the Philoptochos Angel Tree Project. Once again, we wish to thank all our parishioners for their enthusiastic response in taking a child's name, buying a gift, wrapping it and returning it to the

church. There were 85 names this year, which means these 85 neglected children were shown that God loves and cares about them. Our caring community made this possible. Thank you. Assisting me in this project were Pat Destein, her daughter Melina and Helen Markanton.

PARISHIONERS ELECT SEVEN NEW MEMBERS TO PARISH COUNCIL; 2003 OFFICERS ELECTED

On December 15, parishioners elected seven members to the Parish Council for a two-year term, beginning January 1, 2003. Following ratification of the elections by Metropolitan Anthony, **Father Stephen Kyriacou** administered the oath of office at the conclusion of the Liturgy Sunday, December 29. The election results, in alphabetical order, were as follows:

Patricia Joan Aleck	84 votes
George Ambadiotakis Ambus	106 votes
Nick Kontonis	81 votes
Michael Mithos	104 votes
Nicholas J. Rally	104 votes
Mike John Sarikakis	60 votes
John Sooklaris	87 votes
James Denis Vorrises	65 votes
Denise Asminos Yeilding	85 votes

Following the administration of the oath of office, the seven new members joined the eight members who were elected last year and elected their officers for 2003. **James Peter Dariotes** was elected **President**; **Thomas A. Nuris** was elected **Vice-President**; **George Ambadiotakis Ambus** was elected **Secretary**; **Nicholas J. Rally** was elected **Treasurer**; and **Michael Mithos** was elected **Assistant Treasurer**. **Mike Sarikakis** and **Jim Vorrises** were appointed to the Stewardship Committee, which is chaired by **Gus Vouchilas**. Other committees are in the process of being formed.

DEB

The Development, Expansion, and Building Committee (hence DEB) continues to meet the first Wednesday of every month, except in January. Its purpose is to prepare for our work on Phase II.

Towards this end, it has commissioned the architect who designed Phase I, Goldman Architects of San Francisco, to offer us three design (and cost) options: 1. the church and parking as envisioned in the model, 2. a smaller version of the church, along with parking, and 3. the expansion of the existing chapel into the future church, along with parking. The committee will then select the option which makes the most sense and ask for feedback from the community.

Meanwhile, we welcome the exciting development over the prospect of acquiring the property across the street for the purpose of building senior housing and for parking. On December 10, our Cathedral Philoptochos expressed unanimous support for the acquisition of the site by making \$100,000 available towards its purchase. Since then, the Parish Council has been meeting with the owners of the property as well as with experts in the area of senior housing, with a view to acquiring and developing the site. Although these may be considered as two separate projects, they are related in that the parcel being considered addresses some of the Cathedral's parking needs.

METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO TO HOLD CLERGY-LAITY FEBRUARY 6-8

This annual gathering of the representatives of the parishes will take place at the Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center. Normally, the Priest and Parish Council President, or her/his designee, attend as representatives of the parish. As noted above, the New Charter for the Archdiocese of America will be read during the Assembly. This will take place on Thursday, February 6. On Friday, February 7, the Assembly will consider the Budget for the Metropolis of San Francisco for 2003 and, in addition, will hear reports on our various Ministries, namely: Parish Stewardship, Communications, Greek Education, Religious Education, Commission of Orthodox Missions and Evangelism, Philoptochos, and the Federation of Church Musicians.

On Saturday, February 8, following the Divine Liturgy, a Ministries Leadership Conference will be held, convened and coordinated by **Father Stephen Kyriacou**, Ministries Chair, assisted by **Father John Konugres**. Parishioners of the Annunciation Cathedral wishing to address the Assembly are invited to submit their concerns in writing to **James P. Dariotes**, our Parish Council President, by February 3rd.

2003 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARDS, FINANCIAL STATEMENTS MAILED

By now, parishioners of the Cathedral, ages 18 and above, have received Stewardship Pledge Cards for 2003. In order to help the Cathedral budget accordingly, parishioners are asked to return their completed Pledge Cards by January 31. Should parishioners require assistance in filling out their Cards, members of the Stewardship Committee will be on hand, following the Sunday Liturgy, every Sunday in January and in February. They may also answer questions you may have about your statement, which shows all monies given to the Cathedral during 2002. To determine what is tax deductible, please refer the statement to your tax advisor.

Meanwhile, the letter accompanying this year's pledge card, signed by Stewardship Chair **Gus Vouchilas** and **Father Stephen** asks you to ponder what the Church means to you before completing your pledge. While most of our parishioners are conscientious in giving to the Church, many are not. Some try to get away with giving as little as possible. Some do not give anything at all and do so only to satisfy some "requirement," that is, when they want to baptize their child or serve as a godparent, and the like. What are we going to do about these people? The answer is simple: patiently educate them. We believe that most people mean well and that, when given the opportunity, most people are responsible and generous. The process of education is an arduous one. In the end, however, it is the way by which we can effect changes. Towards this end, a won-

derful Stewardship Committee has come into being, to explore creative approaches to the whole notion of giving. Giving, as most of us know, is at the heart of being an authentic human being, which is why Scripture tells us "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). After all, our God is a giving God. He has given Himself in the person of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. And this, in a nutshell, is at the heart of the Christian Gospel.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY ...ATTITUDE... COMPLIMENTS OF YOUR Stewardship Committee

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill.

It will make or break a company...a church...a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have; and that is our attitude...I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it.

PAOI Announces Educational Oppor - tunities for Spring 2003

The Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute, a part of the Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley, located at 2311 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley, announces two courses for the first part of 2003. The one, beginning February 6, and running for eight Thursdays, 6:30 to 9 p.m. is entitled, Introduction to Byzantine Music. It is being taught by our own **John Boyer**. John has studied Byzantine Chant with **Alexander Lingas** and **Lycourgos Angelopoulos**, and has sung with groups known as Capella Romana

and Cantores in Ecclesia.

The seconde course, to be held Saturday, March 22, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. will endeavor to help one discover how the entire life of the parish community is the primary educator of all Orthodox Christians. Participants will have an opportunity to reflect on various aspects of parish life for their positive and negative educational influences on children and families. Strategies will be given for enhancing parish life and educational programs.

The course will be offered by **Anton C. Vrame, Ph.D.**, the new Director of the PAOI, and will be held at the Ascension Cathedral, Oakland.

For further information, please call 510 649-3450 or e-mail: paoi@gtu.edu.

RECENT SACRAMENTS AND SERVICES AT THE CATHEDRAL BAPTISMS

On December 1, Stephen Dimitrios, son of Erika and Jimmy Panagiotopoulos, was baptized. His sponsors were Thomas and Maria Mavrakakis.

On December 8, Haralambos Nicholas, son of Nick and Athena Kontonis, was baptized. His sponsors were Michael and Christina Misthos.

Na mas zisoun! Congratulations!

MARRIAGE

On January 3, the marriage of Richard Walter Anderson and Darcy Cheryl Hooper was blessed at the Cathedral. Caliope Hooper served as sponsor.

Na mas zisoun! Congratulations!

FUNERALS

Joseph Tene, who died on November 25, was buried November 29. Next of kin listed is his wife, Nada Tene.

John Emanuel Pappis, who died on December 30, was buried January 3. Next of kin listed is his wife, Loula Pappis, and children Stella Katakis and Manoli Pappis.

*Aionia afton i mnimi!
May their memory be eternal!*

FOCUS ON YOUTH

CATHEDRAL DANCE GROUPS GEAR UP FOR FDF

It's that time of year again: frenzied practises, (last minute) team registration forms, detailing on the costumes--we're gearing up for FDF. The Cathedral will be sending three teams to Anaheim where the Folk Dance Festival will take place at the Anaheim Hilton February 14-17: **Kymata**, directed by **Irene Kyriacou**, **Lea Lyberopoulos**, and **Athena Stavrakaras**; **Filadelfakia**, directed by **Mina Tsatsaronis** and **Elpida Stavrakaras**; and **Angelakia**, under the direction of **Michael Garibaldi** and **Leah Stavrakaras**. We wish our groups well as they go to this year's competition.

Meanwhile, a number of issues have surfaced this year (not unlike in past years) having to do with parents being pledged members of the parish (an absolute must); attendance in Sunday School (also required, 75% of the time); and the elimination of certain children from competition, either because of ability or attendance at dance practices. The rules governing our dance program are being reviewed with a view to making them conform to the general rules which govern all our youth programs and, indeed, the spirit which we endeavor to foster as a church community.

GOYA BUSY DOING STUFF

Our young people have been busy meeting, studying, and doing things together. On December 21, some 20 youngsters gathered at the Stavrakaras home, where they practiced for Christmas caroling the following day. GOYA thanks those parishioners who opened their homes to our young people and gave them an opportunity to extend Christmas greetings in person. On Wednesday, January 8, our youth will meet at the Cathedral, at 7 p.m. On January 24, following the Crab Feed, the youth will meet at "Crab Cove," a/k/a the alcove between the Chapel and the Korinthias Center and clean up after the event.

On Friday, March 28, our young people will attend the Third Salutations at 7 p.m. and participate in a "lock-in." Together with their advisors and other adult chaperons, they will spend the night without eating, giving the money instead to feed hungry people. They will also review a popular movie, discuss issues of concern to teenagers, and enjoy one another's fellowship, before retiring. The following morning, they will be treated to breakfast and go their way. On Sunday, March 30, the youth groups will, together with the Philoptochos and the Parish Council, sponsor a mini-glendi following the Greek Independence Day Parade.

COME AND SUPPORT OUR BASKETBALL TEAMS

Our 2003 Junior Varsity Schedule for Annunciation games is as follows:

Sunday, January 12

Boys C :	Annunciation vs. Holy Trinity	2:15 p.m. at Holy Trinity
Girls A:	Annunciation vs. Holy Trinity	3:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity
Boys B:	Annunciation vs. Holy Trinity	4:45 p.m. at Holy Trinity

Sunday, January 19

Girls C:	Annunciation vs. Holy Trinity	2:15 p.m. at Holy Trinity
Boys C:	Annunciation vs. St. Nicholas #1	3:30 p.m. at Monte Vista
Girls A:	Annunciation vs. St. Nicholas	4:45 p.m. at Monte Vista
Boys B:	Annunciation vs. St. Nicholas	6:00 p.m. at Monte Vista

Saturday, January 25

Girls C:	Annunciation vs. Ascension	10:00 a.m. at Ascension
Boys B:	Annunciation vs. Ascension	11:15 a.m. at Ascension
Boys C:	Annunciation vs. Holy Cross #2	11:15 a.m. at Holy Trinity
Girls A:	Annunciation vs. Holy Cross	1:45 p.m. at Holy Trinity

Sunday, February 2

Girls A:	Annunciation vs. St. Nicholas Ant.	2:15 p.m. at Annunciation
Boys C:	Annunciation vs. Holy Cross #1	3:30 p.m. at Annunciation

Sunday, February 9

Boys C:	Annunciation vs. St. Nicholas #2	2:15 p.m. at Annunciation
Girls C:	Annunciation vs. Ascension	3:30 p.m. at Annunciation
Girls A:	Annunciation vs. Ascension	4:45 p.m. at Annunciation
Boys B:	Annunciation vs. Ascension	6:00 p.m. at Annunciation

Saturday, February 22

Boys C:	Annunciation vs. Ascension	10:00 a.m. at Ascension
Boys B:	Annunciation vs. St. Nicholas	4:15 p.m. at Holy Trinity

Sunday, February 23

Girls C:	Annunciation vs. Holy Cross	2:15 p.m. at Annunciation
Girls A:	Annunciation vs. Holy Cross	3:30 p.m. at Annunciation
Boys B:	Annunciation vs. Holy Cross	4:45 p.m. at Annunciation

The players and coaches would appreciate it if you would take the time to attend as few or as many of their games as you are able to during the season.

Annunciation Cathedral Calendar of Events

January 2003

Sunday Schedule:
Orthros - 9 am
Divine Liturgy - 10:30
Sunday School - 10:30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			St. Basil & The Circumcision 9 - Orthros 10 - Liturgy			10 - Greek School
12:30 - Bible Study - Marina Taylor	Theophany 9-Orthros 10-Liturgy	St. John The Baptist 9-Orthros 10-Liturgy 6:15-9:30 - Dance Practice Stewardship Meeting	Greek School Basketball Practice DEB Meeting 7 - GOYA Meeting	Basketball Practice		10 - Greek School
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12:30 - Bible Study - Marina Taylor			1:00 - Philoptochos Meeting -Greek School -Basketball Practice -Parish Council Meeting	Basketball Practice 7 - Bible Study Fr. Gregory	St. Anthony 9 - Orthros 10 - Liturgy	St. Athanasios 9 - Orthros 10 - Liturgy 10 - Greek School
12	13	+ 14	15	16	17	18
12:30 - Bible Study - Marina Taylor			Greek School Basketball Practice	Basketball Practice 7 - Bible Study Fr. Gregory		10 - Greek School
1 - Sons of Pericles Basketball Tournament				7 - Sunday School Staff Meeting	6 - CRAB FEED (Sold out)	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
12:30 - Bible Study - Marina Taylor			Greek School Basketball Practice	Three Hierarchs 9 - Orthros 10 - Liturgy Basketball Practice 7 - Bible Study Fr. Gregory		
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Annunciation Cathedral Calendar of Events

February 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Sunday Schedule: Orthros - 9 am Divine Liturgy - 10:30 Sunday School - 10:30				10: - Greek School 1
12:30 - Bible Study - Marina Taylor Basketball Games as scheduled	2	Greek Dance Practice 6:15 - 9:30	Greek School 6-7:30 Basketball Practice 6:30 - 8-10 yrs. 7:30 - 11-14 yrs. DEB Meeting	Basketball Practice 7 - Bible Study- Fr. Gregory	Metropolis Clergy-Laity Meeting February 6 - 8	
12:30 - Bible Study - Marina Taylor Basketball Games as scheduled	9	1:00 - Philoptochos Meeting Greek Dance Practice 6:15 - 9:30	Greek School 6-7:30 Basketball Practice 6:30 - 8-10 yrs. 7:30 - 11-14 yrs.	Basketball Practice 7 - Bible Study- Fr. Gregory 7-Sun. School Staff Mtg	7	10: - Greek School 8
12:30 - Bible Study - Marina Taylor Basketball Games as scheduled	16		Greek School 6-7:30 Basketball Practice 6:30 - 8-10 yrs. 7:30 - 11-14 yrs. Parish Council Meeting	Basketball Practice 7 - Bible Study- Fr. Gregory	Folk Dance Festival February 13 - 17, Anaheim, CA	
12:30 - Bible Study - Marina Taylor Basketball Games as scheduled	23		Greek School 6-7:30 Basketball Practice 6:30 - 8-10 yrs. 7:30 - 11-14 yrs.	Basketball Practice 7 - Bible Study- Fr. Gregory	21	10: - Greek School 22
					27	
					28	

LOOKING AHEAD

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Please note the schedule for the following Holy Days and events for March:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
Saturday, March 1	10 a.m.	Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy at the Cemetery Chapel
Saturday, March 1	6 p.m.	Dinner-Dance honoring Metropolitan Anthony sponsored by the Metropolis Philoptochos Board and Chapters
Saturday, March 8	10 am	Second Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral
Sunday, March 9	Liturgy and Brunch	Godparents' Sunday
Monday, March 10		Great Lent Begins
Friday, March 14	7 p.m.	First Salutations
Saturday, March 15	10 a.m.	Third Saturday of Souls; St. Theodore Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral
Friday, March 21	7 p.m.	Second Salutations
Saturday, March 22	9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	The Educating Community-Ascension
Sunday, March 23	Following Liturgy	Parish Oratorical Festival
Monday, March 24	7 p.m.	Annunciation Great Vespers
Tuesday, March 25	9 a.m.	Annunciation Orthros and Liturgy
Friday, March 28	7 p.m.	Third Salutations/ GOYA Lock-In
Saturday, March 29	8 a.m.	GOYA Breakfast
Sunday, March 30	Following Liturgy	Greek Parade at Civic Center and Mini-Glendi at Annunciation Cathedral

PHILOPTOCHOS 2003 SCHEDULE

The Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos asks that you make a note of the following dates for Philoptochos-sponsored events for the first part of 2003:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
Sunday, January 12	noon	Vasilopeta and New Year's Bread Sales
Wednesday, January 15	1 p.m.	General Meeting - Conference Room (Metropolis Philoptochos President, Valerie Roumeliotes, will attend the meeting)
Friday, January 24	6 p.m.	Crab Feed (completely sold out)
Wednesday, January 29	noon	Bus Tour
Tuesday, February 11	1 p.m.	General Meeting - Conference Room
Tuesday, March 11	1 p.m.	General Meeting - Conference Room
Monday, March 24	7 p.m.	Annunciation Vespers & Coffee Hour
Tuesday, March 25	noon	Annunciation Feast Day Luncheon
Tuesday, April 8	1 p.m.	General Meeting - Conference Room
Friday April 25-		
Saturday, April 26	10 a.m.	Easter BAKE Sale
Saturday, May 10	noon	Mother's Day Luncheon & Fashion Show

CELL PHONES AND CHURCH

We thank you for being sensitive to the prayerful atmosphere of the Divine Liturgy for yourself and for others by turning off your cell phone upon entering Church.

CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

1/12/03 -Vasilopita

1/24/03 -
Annual Crab Feed

3/25/03 -
Philoptochos
Annunciation Feast Day
Luncheon

3/30/03
Greek Parade-Civic Center
Mini-Glendi at Cathedral

4/26/03
Philoptochos
Easter Bake Sale

5/10/03 -
Mother's Day Luncheon
& Fashion Show

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*May We All  
Have a  
Happy, Healthy,  
and  
Prosperous  
2003!*

*(In That Order!)*

ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL

245 VALENCIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103-2320



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